BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 23 | Min 21 | Humidity 84% Light Rain Sensex 81,820 | Nifty 25,057 | Gold 76,145 | Silver 90,799 | Dollar 84.04 | Euro 91.69 | GBP 109.95

ELEMENT OF DANGER

College students complain of incidents of aggression by people who approach them in the guise of seeking help

PAGE 5

DOWNPOUR DIARIES

Low-down on rain-related updates — schools to stay shut, WFH advised and forecast for upcoming few days

PAGE 6

RBI data reveals number of fraud cases in Indian banks has spiked 300% in 2 years — from just over 9,000 in 2022 to over 36,000 in 2024; only way to dodge con is to trust your spider sense

THIS FRAUD CAN BREAK THE BANK

Experts advise verification of info through reliable sources

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In a time when convenience is king, digital banking has reshaped how we manage our finances. However, along with the ease of online transactions comes a wave of sophisticated fraud that has reached alarming heights.

The number of fraud cases in Indian banks has risen significantly. According to the recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data revealed in May, the number of cases has risen up to 36,075 in 2024, as compared to 9,046 in 2022. A recent such fraud happened to a Bengalurean.

Mohan (name changed) fell victim to an elaborate fraud involving a fake credit card offer.

On October 6, he received a call from an individual claiming to represent 'Citi Prestige Private Banking', offering an exclusive Citi Prestige Credit Card with numerous benefits. Mohan agreed to the offer and provided basic personal details, including his name, address, and the last four digits of his Aadhaar card. The fraudster then claimed that for security purposes, Mohan' mobile number needed to be registered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"In today's digital world, we need to take 10 times the precautions we would in the physical world. Unfortunately, due to the anonymity and nature of social media, people often let their guard down and fall prey to scammers

— B Dayananda, Police Commissioner

No buses stop here

Kallahalli has two BMTC bus stops, but no buses run on this route anymore

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Hundreds of residents of Kallahalli near Halasuru Lake have been facing a lot of problems due to lack of Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus service. Most of the residents belong to economically poor families, especially those working as house helps, who can't afford to hire an auto rickshaw to reach Halasuru or the Post Office or Cox Town on a daily basis.

It is not that the BMTC bus service was never here. In fact, BMTC authorities operated the bus service (22A) for a few years. It was a boon for the residents of Kallahalli. They used to reach Halasuru or Old Madras Road within a few minutes when the BMTC bus service was available. Now, they have to walk all the way more than 2km or hire an auto rickshaw.

"I have to come all the way from Hebbal on a two-wheeler as there is no BMTC bus service to this area. I am aware that riding a two-wheeler on busy roads is not safe but I have no other option. It will be a great help for not only the residents of Kallahalli but also people working around Halasuru Lake," one of the Namma Clinic employees told BM on the condition of anonymity.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Traffic Engineering Cell has constructed two bus shelters (one at the entrance of Kallahalli BDA residential quarters and the other one adjacent to Halasuru Lake) for those who take BMTC buses.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Mirror of life

Watch 'Ankada Parade,' a play that is set in an old age home where senior citizens are spending their final years. Although they face the loneliness and challenges of old age, the residents remain active and engaged in various ways. Amidst them is a young aspiring actor who visits the old age home disguised as his father. Through his interactions and observations, the play transforms the reality of old age into a theatrical metaphor, exploring the wonder and complexity of life`s later stages.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: October 16, 7:30 pm

02 Floodlit ball badminton tournament

Join in for the celebration of sport, community, and camaraderie at the All India Ball Badminton Tournament along with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of The Merry Go Round Ball Badminton Club. The milestone event will feature 16 men's teams and 8 women's teams competing on six courts, all of which are floodlit. Matches will be conducted in a league-cum-super league knockout format, ensuring an exhilarating experience for both players and spectators alike. Entry is free for all spectators.
Where: BBMP Grounds, Kothanur Main Road, JP Nagar; When: October 18 to 20

03 Story of a search

Explore 'Anandowari' (The Verandah of Bliss), an adaptation of the seminal Marathi novel 'Anandowari' written by DB Mokashi in 1974. It looks at 17th-century saint poet Tukaram's story through his younger brother Kanha's perspective. This adaptation focuses on the search that lies at the heart of the text: a devotee in search of God, a man in search of his brother, a writer in search of the poet Tukaram.
Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
When: October 16, 7 pm

Ban relay: Baton passed to neckties, writing pads

As private schools now move forward to ban ties, exam pads to curb malpractice, child rights activist questions its need, says all kids shouldn't be treated as suspects

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'Schools decided to ban neckties & writing pads after finding a few students using these accessories for cheating in exams' (file photo)

After electronic watches and mobile phones, the schools are now taking aim at neckties and writing pads. Cases of students sneaking cheat sheets into exams hidden in their ties, a part of the school uniform, have become more frequent. Additionally, instances have been reported where students bring in writing pads with answers written on them to copy from during exams. The schools have decided to ban ties and writing pads after finding a few students using these accessories for malpractice.

Before the onset of the Dasara holidays, both state and central curriculum schools conducted mid-term examinations, during which several students, unprepared for the tests, resorted to copying out of fear of scoring low marks. In some schools, students were even asked to remove their shoes and socks for inspection during the mid-term exams. Following these incidents, private educational institutions have decided to prohibit primary and high school students from using ties and writing pads during exam periods.

School administrations have also instructed students to place their answer sheets directly on their desks to avoid any possibility of cheating. In fact, many schools insist that the writing pads should be transparent and only such pads should be used during examinations.

Mixed response

Satya Murthy from Karnataka Unaided Management of Schools Association (KUSMA) said, "Every school adopts its own measures to prevent students from copying during exams. In line with this, some schools are choosing to ban ties and writing pads. Schools have the freedom to implement control measures based on the extent of malpractice observed." However, Nagasimha G Rao, Director, Child Rights Trust, says that not all students cheat in exams. "It is wrong for school administrations to treat students as suspects just because some have copied. During such instances, students need to be given proper counselling. Banning ties and writing pads is not the right approach." Notably, there are 16,435 private schools in Karnataka, with 4.65 million students enrolled, more than the number of students in government schools.

This number pertains to schools following the state curriculum, while many more students are studying under central curriculums.

Assessment of learning abilities in government schools

The education department recently conducted a 'State Learning Achievement Survey' to evaluate the learning abilities of government school children. The report revealed various findings. For example, 83 per cent of grade III students demonstrated satisfactory learning outcomes, while the abilities of students in grades IX and X stood at 8.50% and 8.54%, respectively. The survey covered students in Grades III, V, VIII, IX and X. As of now, no similar assessment has been conducted for private school students.

'BDA reserves right to accept/reject bid without assigning any reasons'

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The Karnataka High Court has affirmed the authority of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to accept or reject bids made by successful bidders for sites auctioned by the authority without the need to provide any justification. The division bench, consisting of Justices Anu Sivaraman and G Basavaraja, stated, "The act and conduct of the BDA appear to be bona fide and in the interest of public and also to the benefit of the BDA, which in turn is for the benefit of the general public."

The BDA had challenged the decision of a single judge bench that ruled in favour of respondent Sachin Nagarajappa, quashing the authority's letter rejecting his bid and directing the BDA to confirm the respondent's bid as per the tender at Rs 1,54,000 per square metre. The authority contended that the single judge's order contradicted the BDA (Disposal of corner sites and commercial sites) Rules, 1984, which empower the authority to accept or reject the highest bid without providing any reason to the highest bidder.

Referring to Rule 7 and the General Terms and Conditions for e-Auction Notification issued by the BDA, the bench noted that the rule does not require a hearing before rejecting a bid and that the BDA reserves the right to accept or reject bids made by successful bidders without assigning any reasons. The court also emphasised that it is a well-established principle that courts cannot question the "wisdom" of policies created by the legislature and subordinate regulation-making bodies.

The respondent had not challenged the constitutional validity of Rule 7. The court noted that the respondent had accepted the general terms and conditions of the e-Auction and participated in the proceedings, and therefore, he is stopped from objecting to the general terms and conditions or Rule 7.

The court concluded, "In view of the said rule, the BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by a successful bidder without assigning any reasons. We do not find any arbitrariness, irrationality, bias, mala fide or perversity on the part of the BDA in rejecting the highest bid offered by the respondent." The court also applied the principle of 'casus omissus,' stating that a matter that should have been addressed but has not been provided for in a statute cannot be supplied by courts, as doing so would be legislation and not construction. **— BMB**

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Finally, Cauvery 5th Stage Project set for inauguration

With this project, 110 villages in Bengaluru's outskirts will be able to receive Cauvery water

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After years of delays, the long-awaited Cauvery 5th Stage project, aimed at providing drinking water to the 110 villages newly incorporated into the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), will officially be inaugurated on Wednesday. In this initial phase, Cauvery water will be supplied to 50,000 homes. Since the incorporation of these 110 villages on Bengaluru's outskirts in 2007, residents have relied primarily on borewells and other local water sources. In 2014, the Cauvery 5th Stage project was launched to provide them with a more sustainable solution by tapping into the Cauvery River. With the completion of the project, 50,000 households with water connections will start receiving their supply immediately.

A view of India's largest water treatment plant at Torekadanahalli (TK Halli) in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district

State-of-the-art infrastructure for improved water supply

A Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) official highlighted the advanced infrastructure developed under this project: "A modern water treatment plant has been constructed, and water from the Netkal Balancing Reservoir will be pumped through TK Halli, Harohalli, and Tataguni pumping stations to supply Cauvery water to 400,000 homes. This project is expected to benefit five million people, with an additional 775 MLD (Million Litres per Day) of water being made available. The project, costing Rs 4,336 crore, has utilised cutting-edge Japanese machinery and French technology to ensure quality throughout the process. In total, the project required 2.4 crore man-hours and used 1.45 lakh metric tonnes of steel plates. The project was largely financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which provided a loan that BWSSB will repay over the next 10 years", said an official.

Tackling illegal water connections

The BWSSB has also initiated measures to address illegal water connections, aiming to ensure that every household under the Cauvery 5th Stage is properly registered. Residents are encouraged to submit their information to access legal water services. Additionally, applications for water connections can now be submitted online, helping prevent unauthorised connections and assisting in managing Bengaluru's ongoing water scarcity challenges. In the first phase of the Cauvery 5th Stage project, water will be supplied to 48,000 connections across 13 villages in the Yeshwanthpur constituency, and 37,500 connections in six villages in Dasarahalli constituency. Additionally, 73,500 connections will be provided in 26 villages within the Byatarayanapura constituency, while the Bengaluru South constituency will see 96,750 connections across six villages. Furthermore, the Mahadevapura constituency will benefit with 93,100 connections across 33 villages. Villages in Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bommanahalli, and KR Puram constituencies will also be included, ensuring that every household in these areas receives access to Cauvery water.

Multiple deadlines missed

The Cauvery 5th Stage project has faced numerous delays since its inception. Administrative approval was granted on October 12, 2017, with JICA funding 84% of the project and the State Government and BWSSB each contributing 8%. A work order worth Rs 3,728 crore was issued in 2019-2021 for drinking water, with an additional order of Rs 1,014 crore issued in 2020-21. Originally, BWSSB projected the project's completion by March 2023. However, due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the deadline was missed again. The final completion deadline was August 2023, which also passed without the project being finished.

Meeting the water demands of a growing city

With the project now completed, Bengaluru will require 2.42 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet) of water per month to meet the city's growing demands. Prior to this, the BWSSB was supplying 1.6 TMC of water monthly to the city, which was divided into four stages of Cauvery water supply. The addition of the 110 villages under the 5th Stage will necessitate a significant increase in the water supply to fulfill the city's expanding needs.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage dumped

Banaswadi

Garbage, debris, furniture, and tree compost is being dumped next to our apartment complex, Skyline Solstice, located in OMBR Layout, Banaswadi.

Houses flooded

Ulsoor

Whenever it rains, BWSSB manhole blocks and rainwater enters our house in Gupta layout, Ulsoor

Overflowing sewage is common sight for these residents

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Residents in Marathahalli, Mahadevapura, and Bellandur have allegedly been facing serious public health and environmental hazards due to the lack of a proper underground drainage system (UGD). Overflowing sewage on the roads and into stormwater drains (SWD) is now a daily issue in areas like Panathur and Bellandur, and nearby lakes like Kaikondanahalli, Halanur, and Solukere are getting contaminated with untreated waste. The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) pointed out that despite repeated complaints from residents, authorities have failed to take action. Sewage spills over into the stormwater drains, which are not designed to handle untreated waste, creating a significant health and safety problem for the community.

Ram Kanala, a resident and BNP Ward Leader for Munnekollal said, "The stormwater drains in our area are now functioning as open sewers. With no underground drainage, all the waste ends up on our roads and eventually finds its way into the lakes. We've been highlighting this issue for years, but there has been no serious response from the officials. They were supposed to build a culvert which has been pending for four years. We pay our taxes early, but we wonder where the money goes since we don't have basic infrastructure."

The residents pointed out that lack of proper UGD lines has not only affected residents' quality of life but has also led to environmental degradation. The untreated sewage flowing through stormwater drains contaminates nearby lakes, which are crucial water bodies in the area. The situation worsens during the rainy season, with sewage flooding the streets, making roads unsafe and contributing to waterborne diseases.

Lack of proper UGD is posing a serious health and environmental risk for these residents for over 5 years

Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary of the BNP, criticised the authorities for failing to address this long-standing issue. "Completion of the underground drainage lines in Bellandur has been unreasonably delayed for far too long, causing severe inconvenience and health risks to thousands of residents. The BBMP's neglect and lack of accountability in addressing this critical infrastructure gap is unacceptable. These underground drainage (UGD) lines were sanctioned across Bengaluru city over a decade ago, yet Bellandur continues to suffer from a lack of basic infrastructure. Basic amenities like sanitation cannot be compromised, and the authorities must act immediately to resolve this issue, which has been ignored for years."

Vishnu Reddy, zonal president of BNP for Mahadevapura, echoed similar concerns. "For the past five years, the residents and we at BNP have relentlessly pushed for the UGD lines, but the authorities have ignored our efforts. It's not a matter of funds or resources; it's pure negligence. The BBMP has shown no willingness to act. BBMP sits with a budget of Rs 10 crore, but where are the basic amenities? Nothing has changed on the ground, and the residents continue to suffer while the authorities do nothing."

NOTICE

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker hired by **Deepak Gupta** and **Meenakshi Gupta** having address at **D-13-01 Platinum City, HMT Layout, Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru – 560022, Karnataka, India,** with the **Yeshwantpur Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., situated at No. 165/166, 5th Main Road, APMC Yard, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560022,** has remained non-operational for the past 7 years. Both letters sent to Deepak Gupta and Meenakshi Gupta calling upon them to operate the locker have returned unserved and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if the said locker is not operated by Deepak Gupta and Meenakshi Gupta within 3 months from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **16.01.2025.**

Homebuyers urge completion of Housing Act amendments

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In February, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced that the state government has been working on a new uniform law for the benefit of home buyers, especially those who bought flats at residential apartment complexes. This announcement delighted lakhs of homebuyers, but eight months later, the government is yet to come out with the draft of the proposed Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act.

Homebuyers are urging the state government to expedite the completion of the draft on the amendments to the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, to ensure ownership rights on the land used for the construction of residential apartment complexes.

According to them, the longer it takes to release the draft, the more issues homebuyers would face as some of the developers did not handover the rights on the ownership of the land to the registered residents' associations of the respective apartment complexes.

"Congress, in its manifesto, has assured homebuyers to amend the existing Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act 1972. We expected the Congress to honour its commitment. I want the government to come out with the draft on the amendments to the Act," said Naval veteran commander Surendra (retired).

It may be recalled that Basavanagudi MLA LA Ravi Subramanya raised the issue during the State Assembly Session and the DyCM stated that the government is in favour of amending the existing Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972. The DyCM also invited suggestions from elected representatives on the proposed amendments to the said Act.

'Draft is in its final stage'

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, convener of Karnataka Home Buyers Forum said that the Housing Department, which is responsible for the implementation of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in Karnataka, has confirmed the new Apartment Ownership Act.

"It is a good step, but we request the government to release the draft at the earliest to the public so that home buyers can review and suggest recommendations. Creating a law is a lengthy process, and the government needs to act fast in this regard," he said.

In a response to Padmanabhachar's letter, the Under Secretary of the Department of Housing (RERA) Hemavathy stated that the draft for the amendments of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act 1972 is in the final stage. "The new Act will come into force shortly," she said in a letter dated September 30.

Unsafe & unwelcoming

Female students in city voice their fears, concerns

Students report experiencing harassment, aggressive, inappropriate behaviour by men in college vicinities & urge stricter safety measures

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Many female students in Bengaluru told BM about experiencing harassment and aggressive behaviour from men around the college and university campuses. These students, including those who live around colleges in rented houses and paying guest accommodations (PGs) etc have raised concerns about not feeling safe and the potential risks of being out of the house or PGs after a certain time.

A recent incident in Vasanth Nagar highlights a concerning pattern where individuals approach female students under the guise of needing assistance, often resulting in physical assault or verbal harassment if they refuse to help.

In one such case, a member of the social responsibility cell of a prominent college in the area said she was physically assaulted by a group pretending to be victims of a robbery, who then fled when she screamed for help. The police later discovered that this group had collected around Rs 50,000 from other unsuspecting students.

Similar incidents have been reported in the area, especially around the college premises. Female students, in particular, are often targeted by men exhibiting inappropriate and aggressive behaviour, from unwelcome advances to outright assault. Police investigations have revealed that these groups operate in specific areas near colleges, preying on young students by fabricating sob stories to gain sympathy or manipulate them.

Plea for enhanced safety

To tackle these issues, students have urged increased awareness and proactive involvement from local law enforcement, including regular patrolling and the implementation of stricter safety measures. This comes amid growing concerns that male students in the new co-ed environment may need additional guidance on creating a respectful and secure space for their peers.

> **"While Bengaluru police are actively addressing situation, stricter measures & increased patrolling in Vasanth Nagar, Koramangala, other areas would help ensure safety of all students in city**

"Now that our college has become a co-ed institution, there is a growing need to raise awareness among male students about these issues. While the police are actively addressing the situation, stricter measures and increased patrolling in the Vasanth Nagar area would help ensure the safety of all students," said a student representative from a prominent college in the area.

Many face harassment & discrimination

Moreover, cases of harassment have also been noted among other college students in Bengaluru, as seen in reports involving students from Northeast India. For instance, the student of another prominent college in Koramangala faced threats and abuse from an auto driver, while another student from Arunachal Pradesh was told she didn't belong here when she was conducting an election survey near Vasanth Nagar. These incidents point to a larger trend of harassment and discrimination faced by students from diverse backgrounds across Bengaluru.

State calls for safe, animal-friendly Diwali

The state has issued a circular urging residents to take precautionary measures to protect domestic animals and livestock from the distressing effects of firecrackers during the upcoming Diwali festival, scheduled for November 2024. The directive, which aligns with the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board's recommendations, aims to minimise the anxiety and potential harm caused by loud fireworks noises.

The circular emphasises the role of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), local management associations, and ward committees in raising public awareness about the benefits of using eco-friendly firecrackers and the harmful effects of conventional fireworks on animals. To reduce the impact on animals and the environment, only environmentally friendly "green crackers" are permitted per the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling.

Residents are encouraged to report any safety concerns involving firecrackers to the police or local authorities via emergency numbers 100 or 112. This initiative aims to foster a safer Diwali for both humans and animals across the state. **BMB**

Munirathna gets bail in sexual assault case

The Special Court for People's Representatives in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning granted bail to the BJP's Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Munirathna, accused in a case of rape and sexual harassment. The decision was made by Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat. Munirathna was arrested on September 20, 2024, and has been in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison since September 21.

The bail was granted in a case involving serious allegations of sexual harassment and intimidation filed by a 40-year-old social worker at the Kaggalipura Police Station in Ramanagara district. Munirathna and his associates were implicated in the complaint, leading to a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT). Additionally, the court on Monday granted anticipatory bail to three other accused individuals: Lohit, Kiran, and Manjunath, along with Munirathna. **BMB**

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

RAINY DAY BLUES

BENGALURU DELUGED: ORANGE ALERT TODAY

Schools remain closed, traffic worsened, houses flooded: Downpour has halted Bengaluru

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Bengalureans faced a challenging day on Tuesday as rain lashed the city throughout. Looking ahead, the Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for Wednesday, followed by a yellow alert on Thursday, signalling more rain in the coming days. Dr N Puviarasan, scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bengaluru, explained, "The southwest monsoon has officially withdrawn from the entire country as of October 15, 2024. Concurrently, the northeast monsoon has begun over the southeast peninsular region, influenced by several weather systems."

He highlighted the key factors driving this shift: a well-marked low-pressure area over the south Bay of Bengal, the onset of easterly and northeasterly winds over southern peninsular India, and widespread rainfall across the southeast, with isolated heavy downpours in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, and Kerala. The low-pressure system is expected to intensify into a depression within 24 hours and move towards the coasts of north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh. Bengaluru, under the influence of these weather patterns, is likely to experience rainfall until October 21.

Holiday for schools

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner G Jagadish has declared a holiday for schools on Wednesday due to heavy rainfall in the district. With schools also remaining closed on Thursday for Valmiki Jayanti, students will resume classes on Friday. The decision was taken as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of students amidst the ongoing downpour. Jagadish said, "The Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for October 16 and 17, 2024, cautioning of intensified rain during this period. In response, the district administration has declared a holiday for all Anganwadi centres, as well as private and aided primary and secondary schools in all taluks of Bengaluru district on October 16, 2024, as a precautionary step to safeguard students.

However, this directive does not extend to degree, postgraduate, diploma, engineering, and ITI colleges, which will continue to remain open. To ensure the safety of students attending these institutions, college principals and concerned authorities have been provided with general guidelines. Principals are required to ensure that students can travel to and from college safely and without risk. Classes should not be conducted in weak or dilapidated buildings, and principals are advised to thoroughly inspect the condition of their campuses to prevent any mishaps. To make up for the lost academic time due to the rain holiday, colleges are instructed to conduct additional classes on Saturday afternoons or Sundays. Parents, students, and college authorities are urged to avoid waterlogged areas, while the safety of vehicles used by students for commuting should also be prioritised. Additionally, colleges are expected to inform students about how to handle situations related to natural disasters.

Dip in daytime temperature

The rains in Bengaluru brought about an unusual weather pattern, with surprising shifts in temperatures. As the downpour continued, daytime temperatures dropped significantly, creating a cool and unexpected dip during the day. In contrast, nighttime temperatures showed an increase, contrary to typical patterns during rainy spells. Bengaluru recorded day temperature of 21.9 degree celsius which was 6.6 degree below normal and night temperature of 20.2 degree celsius which was 0.2 degree celsius above normal.

WFH advisory for IT BT companies

The government has issued an advisory recommending that IT, BT, and private companies in Bengaluru allow their employees to work from home on October 16, 2024. This comes in response to the ongoing heavy rains and an orange alert issued by the Meteorological Department, prioritising employee safety. With potential disruptions in transportation due to flooding, waterlogging, and traffic congestion, commuting could be hazardous.

Roads inundated

Tuesday's rainfall in Bengaluru has caused varying degrees of inundation across different parts of the city. In Mahadevapura, the Talakaveri Layout in Vijayanagar recorded 25 mm of rain, leading to major flooding. Similarly, the East zone saw moderate inundation following 16 mm of rainfall. The South zone experienced moderate waterlogging as well, receiving 15 mm of rainfall. The West zone, particularly Malleswaram near the Yeshwanthpur TTMC and KaduMalleshwara's Kaveripura, saw 28.5 mm of rainfall, resulting in moderate flooding. In contrast, areas in Mahadevapura like Gururaj Layout and Doddanekundi faced only minor flooding, with 19 mm of rainfall.

Across Bengaluru, the rainfall has caused disruptions, with varying levels of impact depending on the severity of inundation in each zone.

Ooru traffic worsens

On Tuesday, Bengaluru faced an array of issues, with roads transforming into streams and bumper-to-bumper traffic causing significant delays. Many areas experienced knee-deep water, leading to widespread flooding in houses. Key locations such as Kendriya Vihar and Manyata Tech Park were particularly affected, with Yamalur Road also submerged. School buses and various other vehicles were stranded on the roads, prompting the use of tractors to assist in rescue efforts.

Bengaluru was battered by relentless rain throughout the day, causing widespread disruptions across the city. Heavy downpours led to severe waterlogging in low-lying areas, with several underpasses being flooded, making them impassable. Bad roads quickly turned into slushy fields, adding to the chaos as vehicles struggled to navigate through them. Major traffic disruptions were reported, with gridlocks stretching for hours in many parts of the city, leaving commuters stranded. Flooded streets and water-clogged drains worsened the situation, especially in residential areas, where water seeped into homes. Power outages were also frequent, leaving many areas in darkness for extended periods. The downpour caused havoc for pedestrians and motorists alike, making it a tough day for everyone in the city.

Jewel thieves of Bengaluru

Police crack several theft, burglary, robbery cases, recover jewellery worth over Rs 2.8 crore

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The Commissioner of Police during a press conference on Tuesday revealed that stolen jewellery worth more than ₹2.8 crore was recovered in recent operations. The most significant recovery occurred at the Kodigehalli Police Station, where officers apprehended two suspects connected to a string of house-breaking incidents. These arrests resulted in the recovery of 1 kg of gold ornaments worth ₹70 lakh, tied to five theft cases reported in various areas of the city. Three of the accomplices are still on the run.

The VV Puram police arrested two individuals involved in a high-profile theft, recovering 1 kg 570 gm of gold and diamond jewelry worth ₹1.22 crore. The incident took place in Chamarajpet when the complainant and his family were away from home. The theives gained entry into the house by breaking a grill in the cellar.

Police gathered information from various sources, leading them to two suspects, one of whom was a former driver for the family. The suspects were apprehended on September 31, in Satara, Maharashtra, and later confessed to the crime during interrogation.

Shop and home theft

The Sampangiram Nagar Police have recovered 740 gm of stolen gold jewelry valued at ₹51.80 lakh. The theft occurred at a gold shop owned by the complainant. An employee who worked both at the shop and residence from November 2022 to November 2023, is said to have gradually stolen 1 kg 764 grams of gold before fleeing. The complainant reported the theft on December 4, 2023.

Police investigations led to the arrest of one suspect near a medical shop in Nagarath town on December 23, 2023. The suspect confessed and revealed that four accomplices were involved. The following day, another suspect was apprehended near a cloth shop in Daulatabad, Telangana. Both individuals were remanded to police custody for further questioning. On September 20, 2024, a third suspect was arrested in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. During interrogation, the suspect confessed to selling the stolen jewellery to various shops in Bengaluru and Hosur. The jewellery had been melted into gold bullion, with 740 grams valued at ₹51.80 lakh being seized by the police. The search for the two remaining accomplices is still underway.

Armed robbery foiled

Two men, who had threatened a local doctor with a pistol and made off with 1 kg of gold jewelry valued at ₹70 lakh, were arrested. The suspects, residing in Shantivana, Sahakar Nagar, were caught after a coordinated effort by the Yelahanka sub-division police.

The first complaint was filed on February 29, this year. The complainant reported a theft from his father's home in Yeshwanthpur. On February 28, while the complainant was away at a shop with his family, unknown individuals broke in and stole gold jewelry. In a similar case, another complaint was filed by a doctor residing in Sahakar Nagar on April 24 this year. The doctor reported he had just returned home, when an armed intruder threatened him with a pistol before fleeing with gold ornaments.

A special investigation team traced the accused to Visakhapatnam and Chhattisgarh jails, bringing them to Bengaluru on September 29. During interrogation, they confessed to five thefts, two in Kodigehalli and three in Electronic City. On October 4, police seized 1001.4 grams of gold from a shop in Zaveri Bazaar, Mumbai. Three accomplices remain at large.

Bellandur break-In

The Bellandur police arrested a burglar, who had broken into an apartment in Kasavanahalli and stolen 322 grams of gold jewelry. After extensive investigation, the police located the stolen goods, which had been hidden in bushes near an apartment complex. The total value of the stolen items was estimated at Rs 22.5 lakh.

Armed robbery

Ramamurthy Nagar Police arrested three individuals involved in a violent robbery on September 21, where they broke into a home in Kasthuri Nagar, assaulted the occupants, and stole 120 grams of gold jewelry, a two-wheeler, and a mobile phone. The robbery was orchestrated by one of the accused over a rent dispute with the victim. Following an investigation, the police recovered the stolen items, valued at ₹9 lakh, and arrested the suspects on October 13.

Meanwhile the Whitefield Police arrested a man on October 3, for a burglary committed in Krishnappa Layout on September 27.

Slogan near mosque: Case against 2 quashed

The High Court has quashed a case against two men who were accused of shouting 'Jai Sriram' in a mosque, and we're booked under Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and other sections. The court noted that the complainant himself had stated that Hindus and Muslims were living in harmony in the area, making it difficult to understand how the slogan would outrage the religious feelings of any class.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, in his order, observed that Section 295A deals with deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings by insulting a religion or religious beliefs. The court referred to a Supreme Court decision in Mahendra Singh Dhoni v Yerraguntla Shyamsundar (2017), which held that not every act will constitute an offence under Section 295A, and acts that have no effect on disturbing peace or public order will not lead to an offence under this provision. "It is ununderstandable as to how if someone shouts 'Jai Sriram' it would outrage the religious feeling of any class. When the complainant himself states that Hindu – Muslims are living in harmony in the area the incident by no stretch of imagination can result in antimony," the court said.

On September 24, 2023, at approximately 10.50 pm, a group of unidentified individuals forcefully entered a mosque, according to allegations made by the prosecution. The intruders reportedly chanted slogans, including 'Jai Sriram', and purportedly issued threats stating that they would not leave the community. Although the initial complaint did not identify any specific individuals, the petitioners were subsequently named as accused during the course of the investigation. In response to these developments, the petitioners approached the high court, seeking to have the registration of the crime quashed. Regarding the allegation under Section 505, the HC noted that there was no mention of the incident causing public mischief or any rift. The court also pointed out the complaint stated that the complainant had not seen the person who committed the offence under Section 506. — BMB

190 citizens sign up for BBMP's initiative to feed strays

Under bite-free locality initiative, citizens can chip in with feeding community dogs

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) initiative to feed stray animals has garnered considerable attention and support from Bengalureans.

Nearly 200 citizens from across the city have registered as caretakers and to assist the palike in its feeding exercise, which is kick starting on Thursday.

"We announced the feeding initiative and requested citizens to come forward as caretakers. Registrations started two weeks ago and we have received over 190 requests. BBMP is probably the first municipal body in the country to initiate a project to emphasise on coexistence by bringing together various stakeholders," said Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner of BBMP's Health and Animal Husbandry Department.

Under the initiative, 'Bite free locality', pourakarmikas, hotel owners, health officers, animal husbandry officers and interested citizens will coordinate and enable feeding of community dogs once a day in areas where they don't have access to food.

"We will connect pourakarmikas with eateries in different areas. Under the initiative, we are going to establish a system whereby stray dogs are fed regularly. Caretakers will also be connected with restaurants. We will soon organise a brief training session for all the stakeholders to educate them about the type of food that is palatable to dogs. They will also be trained on precautions to be taken while feeding. Feeding time will be allotted too," added Kishore.

Dog festival

BBMP will be celebrating Kukur Tihar, the festival of dogs, at various places across all eight zones in the city. The zone-wise celebration will bring together resident welfare associations and animal caretakers in celebrating stray dogs.

Celebrations will take place at BBMP Head office at Hudson Circle, Sadaramangala road and Grama devatha temple in Hoodi, Gubbalala Main road, Konankunte, Subramanyapura, Vasanthpura , BCMC layout in RR nagar, Bagalgunte on Manjunath Nagar Main Road, Siddapura ward in Guttepalya, Telecom layout in Jakkur, and multiple places in Gayatri Nagar.

> **"We announced the feeding initiative and requested citizens to come forward as caretakers**
>
> –Suralkar Vikas Kishore, BBMP

"The celebration will start at BBMP's head office. There will be celebration spots in every BBMP zone. Citizens who want to celebrate the festival with BMBMP and support this initiative can go to these areas. We are taking this as an opportunity to accelerate animal birth control surgeries too," said a BBMP official.

Unused bus stop turns parking space

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now, these bus shelters have become idle and one of them is being used for parking vehicles, including a road roller.

"The BMTC authorities must restore the bus service for the benefit of residents. It will be a great help if that is done. The residents are compelled to walk from Halasuru to Kallahalli. It is not safe for them to walk on the road as some of the street lights have become defunct," said Kalidasa Reddy, a resident.

Expressing a similar opinion, Murali, a resident, said the cancellation of the BMTC bus service has caused much inconvenience and hardship to the residents. "We had no problems reaching Halasuru or Cox Town those days because of the BMTC bus service. Now, we have to walk to reach Halasuru or Cox Town to board a BMTC bus. I appeal to the BMTC to restore the bus service as early as possible," said Murali.

The BMTC Chief Traffic Manager was not available for comment.

Have withdrawn notification on board exams for certain classes, K'taka govt tells SC

The Karnataka government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it has withdrawn its notification for conducting board examinations for students of classes 5, 8 and 9 in the current academic year in three rural districts.

A bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing an appeal filed by Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools against the March 22, judgement of the Karnataka High Court.

The high court's division bench had permitted the state government to conduct the board exams for classes 5,8, 9 and 11 for the academic year 2023-24, overruling the March 6 order of a single judge's bench.

The single judge of the high court had nullified the state government's decision of October 2023 to hold board exams for these classes through the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB).

On April 8, the apex court stayed the high court division bench order and a April 6 order passed by the Karnataka School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Council "till further orders".

"This is a classic instance whereby no one else than the state government of Karnataka has sought to create a havoc and great distress not only amongst the students and their parents, but also amongst the teachers and the school managements in the state of Karnataka," the bench had then noted.

On Tuesday, the bench was informed by Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta that the state government had withdrawn the notification. "The withdrawal is done. It was a mistake on our part. I can assure my learned friend that even if exams were conducted, no results will be out...," he said.

The bench asked as to why the state government was bent on troubling the parents and children.

"There appears to be some ego problem on part of the state," Justice Trivedi remarked.

Mehta, however, clarified that there were some errors in grant of marks in the three districts, also becoming the reason behind the notification for conducting examinations.

The bench then posted the hearing after a week. **PTI**

Credit card fraud is latest in list

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through a Department of Telecom (D.O.T) server, and he was instructed to insert his SIM card into a new phone which the scammer sent to 'register' his mobile number for secure transactions.

This was part of a SIM swap scam. The fraudster kept the SIM card active overnight, exploiting it to gain access to Mohan's bank accounts. When Mohan later reinserted the SIM card into his own device, he found it inactive. Soon after, he discovered unauthorised transactions totaling 30 lakh across his Axis and Yes Bank accounts. Despite blocking his accounts as soon as he could, the damage was done.

This case highlights a growing trend in cyber fraud where fraudsters lure victims under the pretense of offering premium credit cards.

Con trends

The RBI and banks continually warn against sharing personal information or accepting unsolicited credit offers. Recent data from the RBI reveals a staggering increase in banking frauds, which have risen by 300% (four times) over the past two years. Even more alarming, digital frauds have surged by an astonishing 708% (eight times), highlighting significant vulnerabilities within our banking systems and underscoring the urgent need for stronger cyber security measures.

Reports from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal show that hundreds of such fraud cases are reported daily. The RBI and the government have taken steps to block fraudulent accounts, but cases like Mohan' s reveal the urgent need for public awareness to prevent such scams.

New age scams

Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cyber Crime Intervention Officer (CCIO), highlights two emerging scams that are contributing to the rise of modern cyber crimes. "The first is the 'digital arrest scam', which is rapidly increasing in India as scammers use fear tactics to exploit victims. The second involves 'investment frauds', where fraudsters closely observe individuals through social media platforms before targeting them," he said, emphasising on the need for people to take stronger security and privacy measures to protect them from becoming victims.

Word of advice

The police advise people not to share personal details with unknown numbers or believe everything they see on social media or WhatsApp. It's essential to verify information through reliable sources, including physical verification whenever possible.

Additionally, individuals should avoid sharing bank details or transacting money with unknown digital accounts.

"In today's digital world, we need to take 10 times the precautions we would in the physical world. Unfortunately, due to the anonymity and nature of social media, people often let their guard down and fall prey to scammers. Verification and common sense are essential," said B Dayananda, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru.

Cyber crime fraud: 8 including Axis bank employees arrested

The Cyber Crime Police have arrested eight individuals, including the manager and three sales executives of an Axis Bank branch in Nagarbhavi. This follows an investigation into a complaint filed on July 1, by a Yelahanka resident, alleging that he was duped in a trading scam involving a total investment of ₹1.5 crore from March to June 2024.

The complainant reported being recruited into a VATS group in March 2024, where he was trained in share trading and offered returns tenfold his investment through a 'VIP trading account'. Lured by promises of doubled returns, he initially invested ₹50,000, which he was falsely shown to have doubled in value. Over the next several months, he was pressured to invest more, ultimately pouring a significant sum into the scheme.

The investigation uncovered six bank accounts with a staggering total of ₹97 crore transacted. These accounts were linked to the Nagarbhavi Axis Bank branch. Investigators discovered that the branch manager and three sales executives were involved in opening these accounts, bypassing proper documentation.

Further investigation led the police to Chikkamagaluru, where four additional suspects, including a woman, were arrested. They revealed the involvement of another accomplice, who allegedly facilitated the transactions and provided account holders with a commission for the use of their accounts.

The accused have been found to be connected to 254 similar cases across India, as revealed by the NCRP-1930 portal. Currently, two other suspects are absconding, with one believed to be abroad.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, GANIMANEDI VEKATESHWAR RAO PRABHUDASS, Residing at No 15, Singhadevanahalli, Dammur Post, Ballari-583116, Have changed my name to GANNINA VENKATESHWAR RAO PRABHUDASS, vide affidavit dated 15/10/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Ronak Rakesh Kumar also known as R Ronak R/o No.55 1st Main Road Nagendra Block, Bengaluru-560050 have changed my name to Ronak R

I Ravindra J Vittalani S/O, Jitendra R/o Janapriya Town ship, Kadabagere, Bengaluru, Karnataka have changed my name to Ravindra J Vithlani.

I, Nitin Janardhan Bakle R/a ND Ventures, Magnolia Phase 2, B203, Dr Ambedkar Road, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066. Have Changed To NITIN BAKLE. Vd afft Dt:14.10.2024. Sworn before Notary: Devaraja.E.

I, Ambarisha Nanjunda Reddy R/o No.160 near Om Shanthi Ashrama, Chandapura circle, Kithaganahalli, Bengaluru 560099 have changed my name to Ambarish Nanjunda Reddy Affidavit Dt.15/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, (Thulasi) W/O (K Chandran) born on (01/01/1956) residing at (No 622/3 8th cross Bandappa Rd Yeshwanthpur blore-56022), have changed my name to (THULASI.K) vide affidavit dated (14/10/2024) at (BENGALURU)

I Keshava Murthy, R/o #17/3, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Near K.C.General Hospital East Gate, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560003 have changed my name to Keshava Murthy Ramaswamy Iynegar

I, Abhishek S/o Srinivas R/o No.24 varanasi main road , Srinagar, TC Palya, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to Abhishek Srinivas Affidavit Dt.15/10/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Ramesh Gaddi S/O, Siddappa Gaddi R/o No 1/1 Radha Krishna Building Dr Rajkumar Road, 6th Block Rajajinagar, Bengalore 560010 have changed my name to Ramesh S G for all purposes.

I Vikas S/O, Sh. Sarwan Kumar R/O A3 FF Shakti Apartments Laughing Waters Ramagondanahalli Whitefield Bangalore Pin 560066 have changed my name to Vikas Dhiman

I, Syed Mohammed Farooq R/o Rk Palace, Someshwar Nagar Jayanagar 1st Block Bengaluru - 560011 have changed my minor son's name from Syed Mohammed Usman to Syed Mohammed Farman

I, Gowher Jan W/o Syed Arif R/o #38 Appajappa Garden Durgamma Temple Street Kalasipalyam B'lore-560002 have changed my name to Gowhar Jan.

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Fauji again
Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's first project as an actor 'Fauji', which released in 1989, is all set to get a sequel after over three decades with Vicky Jain and Gauahar Khan starring in the lead

Rashmika to promote cyber safety

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who fell victim to a deepfake video earlier this year, has been appointed as the National Ambassador for promoting cyber safety.

The actress has been appointed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Ministry of Home Affairs. She said as someone who has experienced this, she is dedicated to raising awareness about these issues. Rashmika said in a statement: "Cybercrime is a dangerous and pervasive threat that affects individuals, businesses, and communities worldwide."

"As someone who has experienced this, I am dedicated to raising awareness about these issues and promoting the message of cyber safety to drive positive change. It is crucial that we come together to combat these threats and protect our digital spaces," she added. Rashmika will spearhead nationwide cyber awareness campaigns aimed at educating the public on cyber threats, including online fraud, deepfake videos, cyber bullying, and AI-generated malicious content. The actress' deepfake video started a conversation on the inappropriate use of technology, prompting many celebrities to voice their concerns.

Rashmika will now be seen in "Pushpa: The Rule".

—IANS

Grief never ends

Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o has opened up about her grief over the loss of her 'Black Panther' co-star Chadwick Boseman.

Four years after Boseman's passing, Nyong'o revealed that she has not watched 'Black Panther' since his death from colon cancer at the age of 43, according to E! News.

The actor said this during a panel discussion at the BFI London Film Festival on October 14. "I have to admit, I haven't seen the film since Chadwick died, so I'm having a moment," Nyong'o stated, visibly moved as she recalled their time together.

"Grief is just love with no place to put it. I don't run away from the tears of the grief. You just live with it. That experience will never be separate from the love that was formed," she said.

The actress described her feelings while watching a clip of the film, noting the profound impact it had on her. "I watch this clip and I'm filled with grief," she continued, adding, "I don't know whether I'll ever be done shedding my tears from losing my friend. But I'm like, 'We get to see him alive.' And that's so wonderful."

Nyong'o's reflections come shortly after she shared a poignant tribute to Boseman on Instagram, marking the fourth anniversary of his death.

She said, "'Grief never ends... But it changes. It is a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith. It's the price of love.'"

In her heartfelt message, she added, "Remembering Chadwick Boseman. Forever."

Chadwick Boseman passed away in 2020, just before filming began for 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'.

—ANI

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Samantha revels in chance to work with talented women stars

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu made quite the fashion statement at the much-awaited trailer launch of 'Citadel: Honey Bunny' in Mumbai.

During the event, the actress, who plays the leading role of Honey, explained her reasons for choosing the project. She stated, "Historically, spy series and films have always centred around male characters who engage in thrilling action, deliver iconic lines, and save the day. What sets this series apart is that I get to partake in the action, which is fantastic. With Citadel, I'm thrilled to be part of an internationally connected spy world, working alongside talented individuals like Priyanka Chopra and Matilda De Angelis, and taking on significant roles ourselves. It's a remarkable opportunity to finally represent women in society in this way."

Reflecting on the future of women in cinema, Samantha expressed her desire for equal opportunities in the industry. She stated, "I envision a level playing field where intelligence, talent, and strength determine one's fate, irrespective of gender. That would be an incredible achievement. I'm also delighted to be part of a world where this movement has already begun to take center stage. The chance to collaborate with talent from around the globe has expanded significantly. The platform has become much broader, and it feels like the future is bright for everyone."

Starring Varun Dhawan and Samantha in action-packed roles, the show is directed by Raj & DK of The Family Man fame. It also stars Kay Kay Menon, Simran, Saqib Saleem, Sikander Kher, Soham Majumdar, Shivankit Parishar and Kashvi Majmundar, in pivotal roles. The six-episode series will premiere globally on Prime Video on November 7, 2024.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Praise & 1 question

Real Star Upendra aka Uppi appreciated director Gurumurthy for his forthcoming Kannada movie Ugravathara in which Priyanka Upendra plays a tough cop. The team of Ugravathara has organised a function to unveil the trailer of the movie at MMB Legacy recently.

"I appreciate director Gurumurthy for his hard work and dedication. The quality of the trailer indicates the director's commitment towards the movie. The director

seems to be worked up. I too was tensed when I made my debut as a director in Sandalwood. I watched the movie at home. It is very good. My only objection was how a glamourously turned out woman police officer can also nab and control rowdy elements," Upendra asked.

Priyanka's fans will be thrilled to see her in action thrashing rowdy elements. "I hesitated when director Gurumurthy approached me to act in this movie. I was not sure whether I can play a police officer but the director convinced me. I worked hard during the shooting. The film is about atrocities on women. The movie highlights the importance of self defence, Suraksha App, on the need to respect and honour police officers," said Priyanka.

The movie is bankrolled by SG Satish under the SGS Creations banner. Thanking Priyanka for her support, director Gurumurthy explained there are five action scenes in the movie.

Divine tale

Multilingual actor Suman, known for Telugu devotional movie Annamayya and Super Star Rajinikanth-starrer Tamil action movie Sivaji, plays a key role in the movie Simharoopini. The movie is scheduled for release on October 17 across the state. The audio of the movie was launched at MMB Legacy on Friday.

Appreciating director Kinnal Raj, Suman said Simharoopini will become a huge success at the box office. "I play Lord Venkateshwara in the Telugu movie Annamayya which became a big hit. I am sure of Simharoopini will become a huge hit in Sandalwood. I play an important character in the movie and it will answer the queries on

whether the God or the Goddess exists," said Suman, who came all the way to Bengaluru from Hyderabad. Kinnal Raj, who is known for writing lyrics for the movies KGF and Salar, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. KM Nanjundeshwar, who wrote the script, has bankrolled the movie under the Sri Chakra Films banner.

According to the director, the teaser of the movie released last month has received good feedback.

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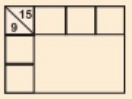
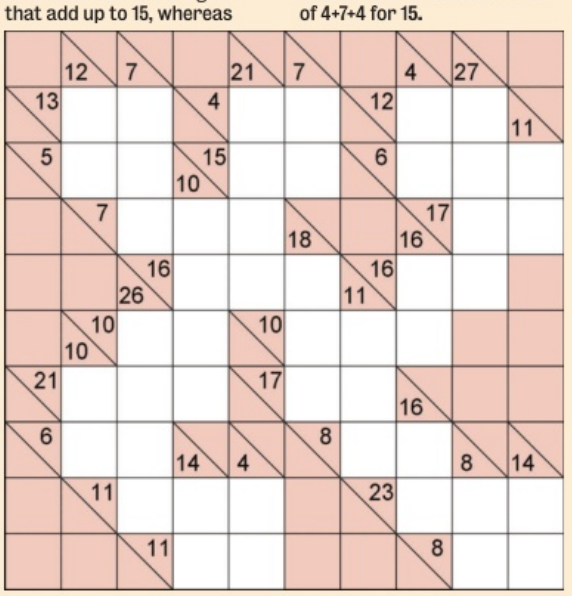
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

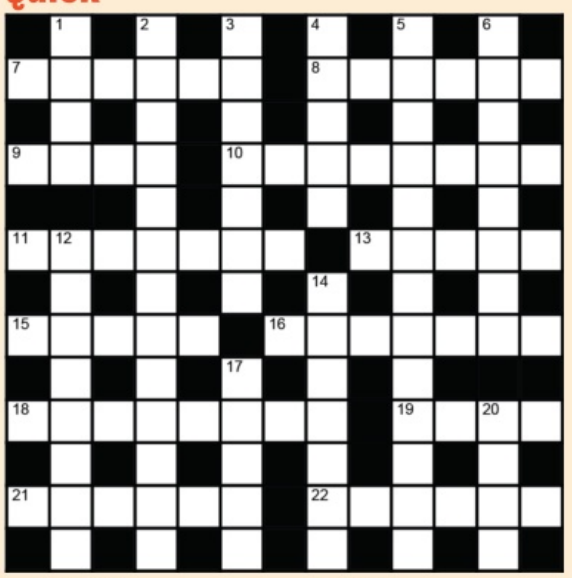


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Unjust (6)
8 P in BBMP (6)
9 Search carefully (4)
10 Loyal (8)
11 Former Japanese emperor (7)
13 Scottish squire (5)
15 Lay ___: abandon or reject? (5)
16 Sympathise (7)
18 Femme fatale, spy (4,4)
19 Cut down (4)
21 Very powerful (6)
22 Sea near Greece (6)

DOWN

1 A in A.D. ? (4)
2 Foods rich in sugars and starches (13)
3 Gains or benefits (7)
4 Relating to sight (5)
5 The beginning and the end? (5,3,5)
6 Prime Minister of India from April to November 1997 (1,1,6)
12 Chess champion Garry ___ (8)
14 In name only (7)
17 Italian poet 1265–1321 (5)
20 Enfold (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS T

MVR FQGGO FR YNCGX QAUNZX NO MU HRRB OQXZROO UNM QGOU HRRBO UNM MVR WUJ.

Linemaro

I lost my phone number can I borrow yours?

Mindchow

If you take responsibility for yourself you will develop a hunger to accomplish your dreams

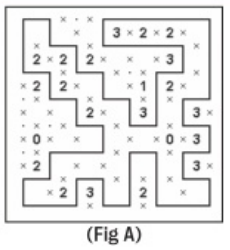
Joke of the day

Being an astronaut is funny. It's the only job where you get fired before you start work

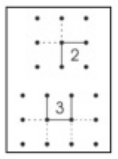
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

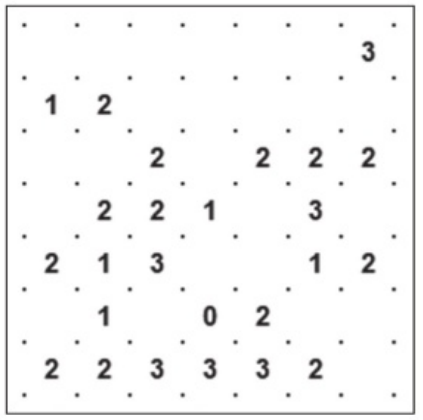


(Fig B) Not Allowed

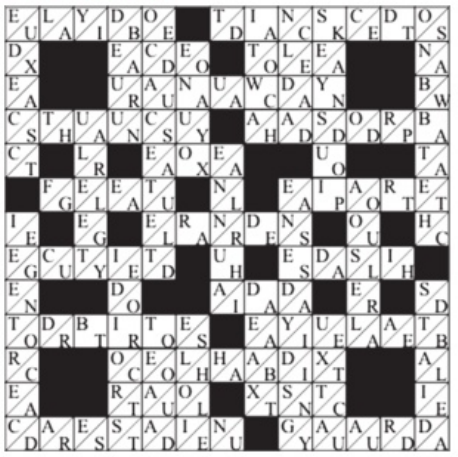
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2 H	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Horst; 6 Carve; 7 Alone; 8 Slug I; 9 Or Its

DOWN

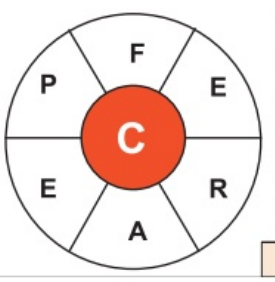
1 Arcus; 2 I hang; 3 OO Vol; 4 Tiler; 5 Rests

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:

LANG4UAGES

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1		8	6			
	5	9			7			8
								7
	6			4		8		
	4	3	2		8	5	9	
		5		6			3	
1								
2			4			7	1	
			8	9		2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1

4 7 7 9

Medium = 6

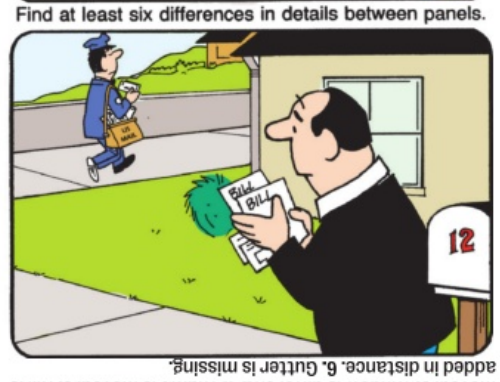
1 3 4 7

Hard = 36

2 6 6 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



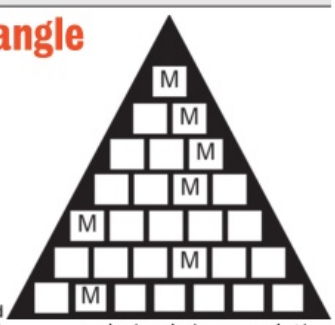
Differences: 1. Paper is missing. 2. Line in sidewalk is moved. 3. Window is different. 4. Thumb is moved. 5. Hill is added in distance. 6. Gutter is missing.

Riddler

I was on a road trip with a friend when we drove past a very tall radio tower. I told my friend "That thing has to be at least a thousand feet tall!" He looked out the window for a moment, and said "I'll bet it's closer to 1500 feet." We stopped at a gas station and asked how tall the tower was, and it was exactly 1500 feet tall! Now that I owe my friend a steak dinner, how could he tell how tall the tower was?

Alpha triangle

1 Meter, abbr.
2 In the morning
3 U.S. Govt. Uncle
4 Identical
5 Former fillies
6 Paceman
7 Measures of electric current

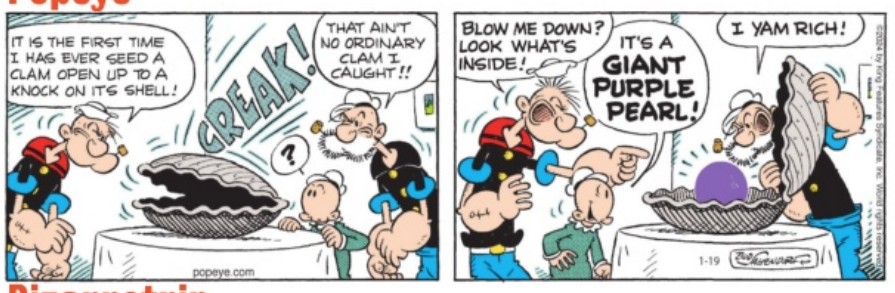


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAS EVER SEED A CLAM OPEN UP TO A KNOCK ON ITS SHELL!
CREAK!
?
THAT AIN'T NO ORDINARY CLAM I CAUGHT!!
popeye.com
BLOW ME DOWN? LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE!
IT'S A GIANT PURPLE PEARL!
I YAM RICH!
1-19

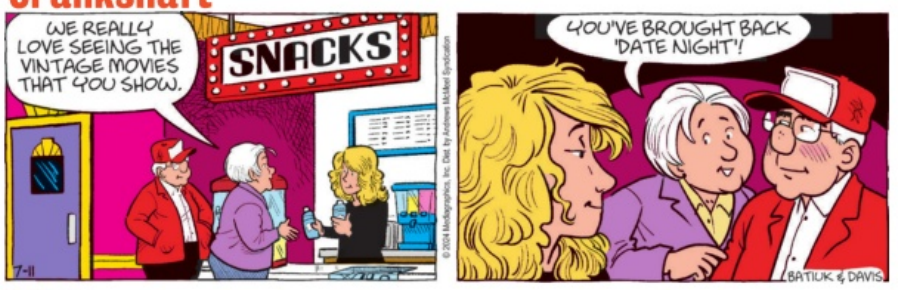
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

GOOD WORK ON YOUR CLEANING TEST, CLASS. ON TO OUR FIRST BAKE!
EACH TABLE GETS A RECIPE, AND EVERYONE WILL TAKE TURNS BAKING THE BISCUITS.
BISCUI
THIS IS GONNA BE A WALK IN THE PARK.
2 C. FLOUR
1 TBSP BAKING POWDER
1 TBSP SUGAR
1 TSP SALT
1 TBSP UNSALTED BUTTER
¾ C. MILK
AUTHOR'S NOTE: LOOK CLOSELY! CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S WRONG HERE?
FLOUR
SUGAR
MILK
BUTTER

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you'll perform excellently at work, leading to good rapport with your boss and possibly new responsibilities, including a promotion. Chronic health issues may be resolved, and you may receive incentives for your hard work. Disputes with siblings will be settled, and job seekers might find new opportunities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you'll focus on your children's education and may plan for their higher studies. Couples might hear good news about a child, and singles may meet their soul mate. You might also consider advancing your education to get a promotion. Professionals in education, consulting, and banking will excel.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, dissatisfaction may arise as you struggle to fulfill responsibilities. Be cautious with investments as losses are possible. Review all documents carefully before signing anything. Health concerns for elders could upset you, and it's wise to postpone home renovations for now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll be busy with work, and expanding your network, which may help secure a big business order. Innovations in partnerships may start today, and investments could come in, growing your business soon. Your relationship with your spouse will improve emotionally.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you'll enjoy quality time with family and friends, feeling happiness from their company. New income sources may emerge, boosting your finances. You'll also control unnecessary expenditures and might invest in something that elevates your social status.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, elder's blessings will help you regain focus and patience, enabling you to achieve your goals. Success is likely in both business and domestic life. You'll find a balance between spending and saving, boosting your savings.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Dissatisfaction may affect your mood today, leading to laziness and delays in projects. Love birds should avoid making important decisions regarding marriage, and job seekers might face disappointments in interviews.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your inner strength will make you happy today, leading to short-term financial gains from investments. You'll build a strong relationship with your boss, potentially receiving a promotion. Your social prestige will increase, and work-related travel is expected.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessed by the moon, your hard work will lead to a better position, and your efficiency at work will improve, boosting your confidence. You might meet an influential person who provides valuable guidance, and your parents' health will stabilise.

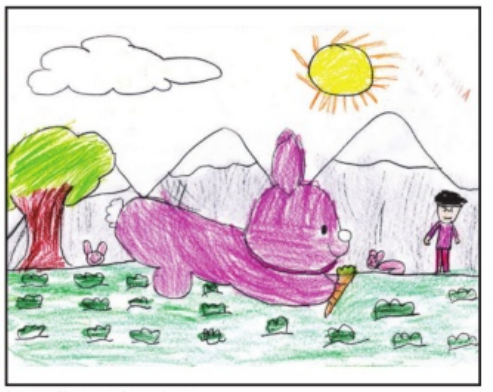
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, happiness will prevail as things improve. You may plan to visit a religious place, gaining inner strength. Donations to charity or religious places are likely, and an overseas trip related to education or work may be on the horizon. Singles might find a suitable match.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Feelings of unhappiness may impact your productivity, delaying current projects. Keep personal and professional life separate to maintain domestic harmony. Avoid risky activities, such as adventure sports or rushing while driving. Love birds might face a breakup, and job seekers could be disappointed.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you'll feel a positive energy around you, with things going smoothly. A new business partnership may begin, and long-distance travel is likely. Strengthened trust with your spouse will bring harmony to your domestic life.

KIDZONE

Anika Arka, Bengaluru



Ananya Vastare, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
Radio towers are always painted with alternating red and white stripes. If the tower is over 700 feet tall, every stripe is 100 feet high. My friend just counted the 15 stripes and knew immediately it was 1500 feet tall. This only works if it's under 700 feet; if it's over 700 feet, the tower will always have seven stripes

SOLVE IN 1M
$= \sqrt{32} / \sqrt{8}$
$= 4\sqrt{2} / 2\sqrt{2} = 2$

FAST FIVE

S	H	O	R	T
C	A	V	E	R
A	N	O	L	E
U	G	L	I	S
R	I	O	T	S

STRIKE OUT

D	R	E	S	D	E	N		G	U	A	R	D		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
Foreign languages

BULL'S EYE
acre, cafe, cape, caper, care, carp, creep, crepe, face, farce, pace, pacer, peace, PREFACE, race, recap

QUOTE UNCODE
The walls we build around us to keep sadness out also keeps out the joy.

SUDOKU

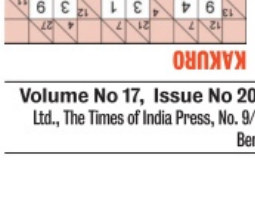
4	7	1	5	8	6	9	2	3
3	5	9	1	2	7	6	4	8
6	2	8	9	3	4	1	5	7
9	6	2	3	4	5	8	7	1
7	4	3	2	1	8	5	9	6
8	1	5	7	6	9	4	3	2
1	9	4	6	7	2	3	8	5
2	8	6	4	5	3	7	1	9
5	3	7	8	9	1	2	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Sam, Mares, Same, Mares, Seamer, Amperes.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 − 9 + 7 − 4 = 1
Medium
3 + 7 − 4 / 1 = 6
Hard
2 + 5 × 6 − 6 = 36

LOOP

KAKURO



Volume No 17, Issue No 207 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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